ARDGOWAN

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
OF CANADA

Management Plan

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

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MAY 2005

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OF CANADA

Management Plan

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Foreword

Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas represent the soul of our country. They are a central part of who we are and what we are. They are places of beauty and wonder and heritage. Each tells its own story. Together, they connect Canadians to our roots, to our future and to each other.

We see a future in which each of the national historic sites of Canada, whether federally owned or not, enjoys sound commemorative health, and in which our system of sites evolves as our country evolves. Our national historic sites will be places for all Canadians to experience and learn from. They will help our communities to be vibrant and creative, and contribute to our efforts to revitalize Canada's cities. Together, we will hold these places in trust for this and future generations, while ensuring they contribute to Canada's sustainable economy and environmental health.

Our vision is also for each of Canada's unique terrestrial and marine regions to be represented by at least one national park or national marine conservation area, for all national parks to be in sound ecological health, for all NMCAs to promote the ecologically sustainable use of our marine resources in a way that harmonizes conservation practices with human activities, and for both national parks and NMCAs to be places for all Canadians to experience and enjoy.

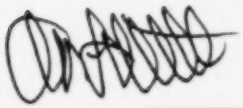
These principles form the foundation of the new management plan for Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada. May I offer my appreciation to the vast range of thoughtful Canadians who helped develop this plan. I am especially grateful to our very dedicated team from Parks Canada and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated such good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In that same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

Stéphane Dion
Minister of the Environment

Recommendations

Recommended by:



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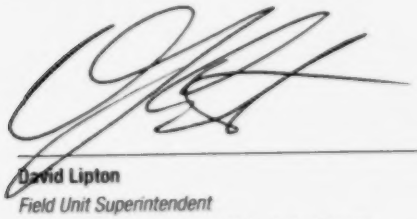
Parks Canada



David Lipton
Field Unit Superintendent
Prince Edward Island Field Unit, Parks Canada

Executive Summary

Ardgowan, the home of William Henry Pope from 1854 to 1873, was designated a national historic site in 1966 as the symbolic home of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island. Ardgowan, located in the City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is one of twelve homes of Fathers of Confederation that have been commemorated as national historic sites in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Despite tangible links to the story of Confederation, Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC) is not well recognized among sites and attractions promoting the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme that has been widely adopted in Charlottetown and on the Island. Ardgowan NHSC has long served as the centre for Parks Canada administrative and information services on Prince Edward Island, housing staff offices. The exterior of the house and the mid-Victorian-era rehabilitated grounds are open to the public.

This first management plan for the site strives to provide strategic direction to site managers on how to ensure the commemorative integrity of Ardgowan NHSC through the protection of the valued heritage qualities and the provision of an appropriate level of heritage presentation, as well as how to provide other visitor services while continuing to serve as the administrative centre for Parks Canada on the Island. The management plan was developed by a multi-disciplinary planning team with public input.

In general, Ardgowan NHSC is well protected and well maintained, known by local residents for its beautiful gardens and recognized as the administrative heart of Parks Canada on the Island. However, the site possesses a weak heritage presentation and visitor service offer that merits reconsideration and rejuvenation. Although the low level of visitation makes it hard to justify much

Ardgowan was the home of a Prince Edward Island Father of Confederation W.H. Pope. *Parks Canada*

change in the offer, enhanced heritage presentation at the site will be explored, such as development of a self-guided tour, renewed non-personal programming and personal programming or special events offered in conjunction with third parties. Efforts will be made to encourage visitation by those who have a clear understanding of the modest site offer yet have an interest in the historic significance of the site and its gardens. A *Landscape Management Plan* will be prepared to provide more detailed direction on long-term maintenance and rejuvenation of the grounds and comprehensive consideration of how to most effectively use the grounds for heritage presentation and visitor orientation. Site managers will strive to improve links between the site and other heritage attractions and organizations in Charlottetown particularly on the theme of "Birthplace of Confederation." Off-site audiences will learn more about Ardgowan NHSC through curriculum material developed in collaboration with educators and through an enhanced Web site.

The implementation of the proposed actions in this management plan is contingent upon the availability of resources or the availability of third-party collaboration.

Broad implementation priorities are indicated in the management plan, and the public will be advised of progress in realizing the management plan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION:

Heritage Resource Protection

- continue to maintain and protect the cultural resources of national historic significance, both the exterior of the house and the original interior elements, as well as other cultural resources of the site
- review and update the *Conservation and Maintenance Manual*, and develop a *Maintenance Management Plan* for the cultural resources and the built heritage of Ardgowan NHSC
- maintain an awareness of development of or changes of use on adjacent properties and work with owners and appropriate authorities to try to ensure that use and development are compatible with and sensitive to the heritage character of Ardgowan NHSC

Heritage Presentation

- evaluate and, depending on the availability of funds, revise or recapitalize as required the on-site non-personal media to ensure that key messages and other heritage values associated with Ardgowan NHSC are communicated; develop a self-guiding tour brochure for the site
- approach other groups and agencies to explore the possibility of offering personal programming and special events at Ardgowan NHSC
- develop and improve the Web site educational content
- work in collaboration with others to communicate key messages about Ardgowan at thematically related sites and attractions, and cooperatively develop heritage presentation tools
- work with educators on the preparation of appropriate curriculum materials to improve school-aged children's understanding of Ardgowan NHSC

External Relations and Visitor Services

- encourage visitation at Ardgowan NHSC to an appropriate level, through use of promotional tools that shape realistic expectations of the site and are targeted to visitors with an interest in the historic significance and the unique grounds of the site
- work to ensure that promotional efforts of Parks Canada or of other agencies and organizations pertaining to the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme include Ardgowan NHSC
- explore the possibility of providing accessible public washroom facilities that do not impair the built heritage or rehabilitated landscape

Operations and Administration

- continue to position Ardgowan NHSC as the headquarters for administration and information services for Parks Canada on Prince Edward Island
- ensure that future interventions at the site, including any improvements for workplace needs and visitor comfort, will be designed to avoid impairment to the commemorative integrity of the site

Table of Contents

Foreword iii
Recommendations v
Executive Summary vii

1.0 Introduction
1.1 Background 1
1.2 Site Location and Context 2
1.3 Historical Background 2
1.4 Importance in the National Historic Sites System 5
1.5 Legislative and Policy Basis for National Historic Site Management Planning 6

2.0 Commemorative Integrity
2.1 Parks Canada's Commitment to Commemorative Integrity 9
2.2 Summary of the Commemorative Integrity Statement 9
A. Designated Place 10
B. Level I *In Situ* Resources 10
C. Level II Resources 11
D. Messages 12
2.3 Commemorative Integrity Statement as a Framework for Management Planning 13

3.0 Vision 15

4.0 Strategic Direction for Ensuring Commemorative Integrity and Site Management
4.1 Protection of Cultural Resources 17
A. Designated Place and Level I Cultural Resources 17
B. Level II Resources: Landscape 19
C. Level II Resources: Other Resources and Values 20
4.2 Engaging Canadians 22
A. On-site Heritage Presentation 22
B. Off-site Heritage Presentation and Outreach 25
C. External Relations 25
D. Collaboration and Partnerships 27
4.3 Visitation and Visitor Services 28
4.4 Operations and Administration 30

5.0 Impact Evaluation and Environmental Assessment 31

6.0 Implementation 33

List of Participants 35

Appendix 1
Homes of Fathers of Confederation that are National Historic Sites 37

Appendix 2
Inventory and Evaluation of Cultural Resources 39

Reference Maps
Map 1 Regional Setting 3
Map 2 Local Setting 4
Map 3 Site Plan 10

1.0 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

Ardgowan[1], the home of William Henry Pope from 1854 to 1873, was designated a national historic site in 1966 as the symbolic home of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island. The Fathers of Confederation were the colonial politicians who participated in the first meetings held in Charlottetown in 1864 that led to the Confederation of Canada in 1867. The commemoration of William Henry Pope's home was part of a program that was initiated during the 1960s by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) to gain recognition for the homes of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George-Étienne Cartier, and that was expanded to the protection of significant examples of other homes of Fathers of Confederation. Twelve homes of Fathers of Confederation have been commemorated as national historic sites in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec.[2] The Fathers of Confederation themselves have been commemorated as persons of national historic significance. William Henry Pope was commemorated in this way in 1939. Plaques commemorating Pope and other Island Fathers of Confederation are located on the grounds of Province House National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC), Charlottetown. These commemorations contribute to our understanding of the history of the Governing of Canada (Politics and the Political Process), one of the five themes of Canadian history that are collectively illustrated by the national historic sites, persons and events in Canada.

This is the first management plan for Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC). During the development of the management plan, the management planning team considered past management guidance, such as *Pope House National Historic Site Provisional Development Plan* (c. 1973), *Ardgowan Management Guidelines* (1979), *Conservation and Maintenance Manual* (1982), *Ardgowan National Historic Park Grounds Maintenance Manual* (1987), *Province House National Historic Site Service Plan* (1992), *Heritage Presentation Plan, Parks Canada, PEI Field Unit* (2001) and the Commemorative Integrity Statement, which was approved in 2001. In 1992, the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) evaluated Ardgowan as a "recognized" federal building for its heritage qualities; FHBRO guidelines provide additional consideration for management of the house. The management plan is a product of a process begun in July 2001, undertaken

William Henry Pope. *National Archives of Canada*

[1] Ardgowan in Gaelic is considered to mean "hill of the daisy."
[2] See Appendix 1 for a list of other homes of Fathers of Confederation that are similarly commemorated.

by a multi-disciplinary team, and reflecting input received during periods of public consultation.

This management plan for Ardgowan NHSC provides long-term direction to site managers. Strategic direction is offered to guide conservation and presentation activities necessary to ensure the commemorative integrity of this national historic site. As well, the management plan helps managers respond to operational needs and cooperative opportunities. The management plan offers a framework within which subsequent management, implementation and detailed planning will take place. The proposals of this management plan will be implemented as the financial capacity of Parks Canada, Prince Edward Island Field Unit permits.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

Ardgowan NHSC is located in the City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in a residential neighbourhood approximately 2 km northeast of the city centre (See Map 2: Local Setting). The two-hectare property is what remains of the approximately thirty-one hectares leased by William Henry Pope at the time of the Charlottetown Conference in September 1864. The property is bordered to the north and south by quiet residential streets, Palmers Lane and Confederation Street, to the east by Parkdale Elementary School, and to the west by Mount Edward Road. Across Mount Edward Road from Ardgowan NHSC is the Experimental Farm and the Ravenwood estate, the latter a municipal heritage resource and Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office "recognized" building. Of the 65-hectare property, 35.6 hectares including Ravenwood have been declared surplus by Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, and the future of the site is uncertain. (See Map 3: Site Plan).

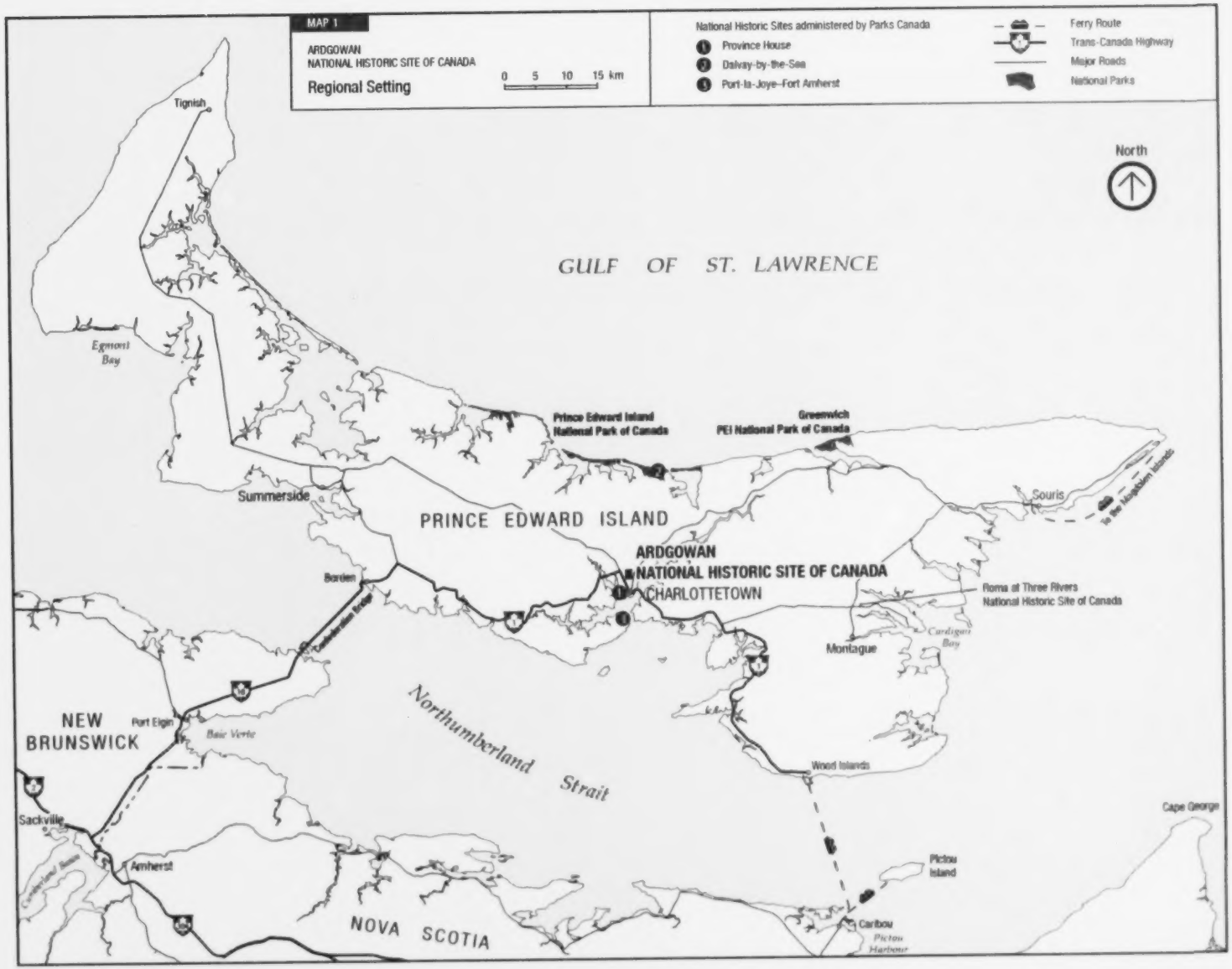
The house and property were acquired by the federal government in 1967. At that time, the house was badly deteriorated and only approximately two hectares remained of the original estate. The only surviving outbuilding was a small barn/carriage house located behind and to the west of the house. A major rehabilitation program for the house and grounds was undertaken from 1980 to 1982 with the aim of commemorating the home of an Island Father of Confederation through presentation of the exterior of the rehabilitated house and grounds. Higher rehabilitation standards were set for the two front ground-floor rooms and the second-storey room in the west wing. Much of the rest of the house, in particular the rear wings and the basement, had badly deteriorated and was substantially rebuilt.

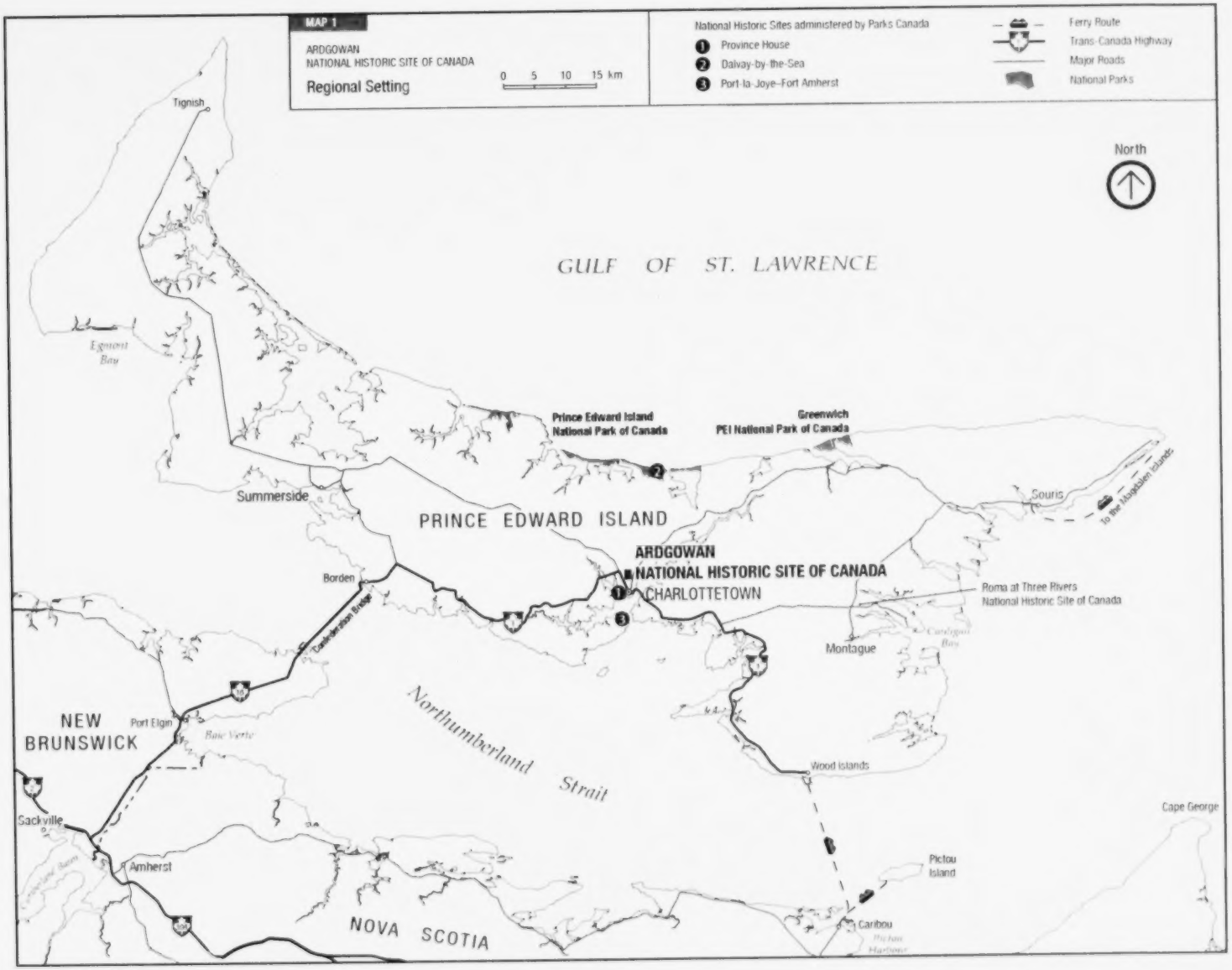
The largely rebuilt interior of the house was adapted for use as office space for Parks Canada staff, and in 1994 office space was added with the reconstruction of the east wing of the house. For the past twenty years, the house has accommodated the administrative functions of the Prince Edward Island Field Unit. Visitors may tour the grounds of Ardgowan NHSC, but the interior of the house is not open to visits by the touring public.

Along with Province House NHSC and other heritage and tourism attractions in Charlottetown, Ardgowan NHSC is associated with the theme of "Birthplace of Confederation." This theme has been widely adopted in recent years by those who market and promote Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown. Although Ardgowan NHSC has a tangible and authentic link to this theme, the site is not well visited due to a lack of service offer, the distance of the site from other sites and attractions in the downtown core and a lack of awareness of the role Ardgowan played in the events surrounding the Charlottetown Conference that led to Confederation.

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The house at Ardgowan appears to have been built after 1850 and before William Henry Pope leased the estate from its owner John Brecken in November 1854. The terms of the lease indicate that some structures ("houses, outhouses, buildings, yards, gardens, fences") were already located on the property. Pope and his growing family lived at Ardgowan until 1873, when they moved to Summerside after Pope's appointment as a judge of the Prince County Court. Pope died in Summerside in 1879. In 1863,


MAP 1
ARDGOWAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Regional Setting
0 5 10 15 km
National Historic Sites administered by Parks Canada
1 Province House
2 Dalvay-by-the-Sea
3 Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst
Ferry Route
Trans-Canada Highway
Major Roads
National Parks
North
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE
Tignish
Egmont Bay
Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada
Greenwich PEI National Park of Canada
Summerside
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Souris
Îles de la Madeleine
ARDGOWAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
CHARLOTTETOWN
Borden
Confederation Bridge
Roma at Three Rivers
National Historic Site of Canada
Cardigan Bay
Montague
NEW BRUNSWICK
Port Elgin
Baie Verte
Northumberland Strait
Wood Islands
Sackville
Amherst
Cape George
Pictou Island
Caribou
Pictou Harbour
NOVA SCOTIA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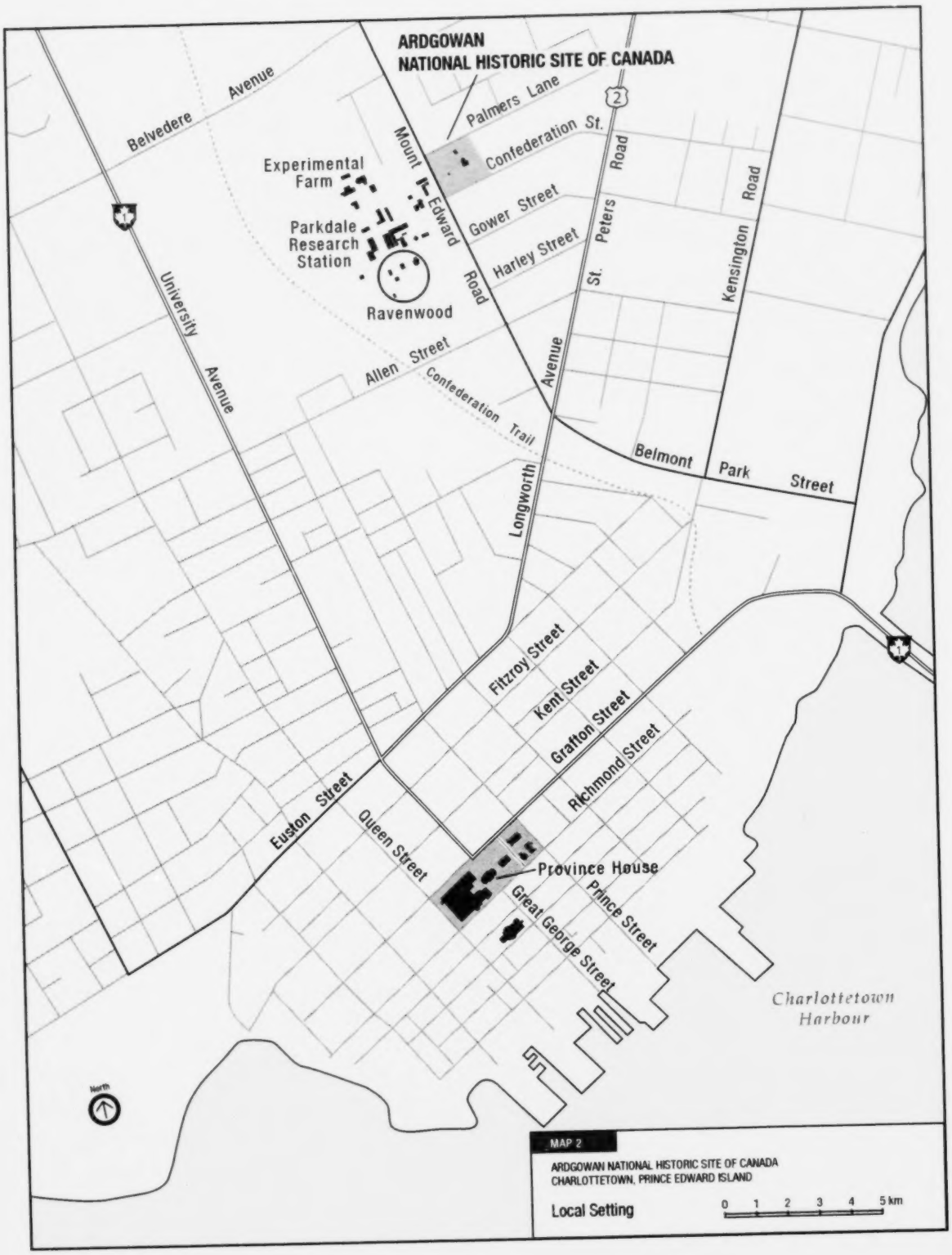
ARDGOWAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Regional Setting
0 5 10 15 km
National Historic Sites administered by Parks Canada
1 Province House
2 Dalvay-by-the-Sea
3 Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst
Ferry Route
Trans-Canada Highway
Major Roads
National Parks
North
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE
Tignish
Egmont Bay
Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada
Greenwich PEI National Park of Canada
Summerside
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Souris
To the Magdalen Islands
ARDGOWAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
CHARLOTTETOWN
Borden
Confederation Bridge
Roma at Three Rivers National Historic Site of Canada
Montague
Cardigan Bay
NEW BRUNSWICK
Port Elgin
Baie Verte
Northumberland Strait
Wood Islands
Cape George
Sackville
Amherst
Pictou Island
Caribou
Pictou Harbour
NOVA SCOTIA


ARDGOWAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Belvedere Avenue
Palmers Lane
Confederation St.
Mount Edward Road
Experimental Farm
Parkdale Research Station
Ravenwood
Gower Street
Harley Street
Allen Street
Confederation Trail
University Avenue
St. Peters Road
Kensington Road
Belmont Park Street
Longworth Avenue
Fitzroy Street
Kent Street
Grafton Street
Richmond Street
Euston Street
Queen Street
Province House
Great George Street
Prince Street
Charlottetown Harbour
North
MAP 2
ARDGOWAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Local Setting
0 1 2 3 4 5 km

Pope's brother James Colledge Pope had assumed the lease on the property and in 1875 he exercised the option to purchase the land, which he subsequently subdivided and sold in 1879.

Ardgowan was William Henry Pope's home at the time of the Charlottetown Conference in September 1864. George Brown, one of the leaders of the Canadian delegation,[3] stayed at Ardgowan during the conference and a letter to his wife provides a written snapshot of the Pope family and their home. Although Brown expressed surprise at the fact that Pope's wife Helen Desbrisay Pope had never travelled from Prince Edward Island, he noted that she was "amazingly civilized" and that her eight "strong, vigorous, intelligent & good looking children" benefited from the "beautiful grounds" and "capital library" that Ardgowan possessed. Brown was also present at the luncheon at Ardgowan that the Popes gave for the conference delegates, who were wined and dined with "oysters, lobster, & champagne & other island luxuries."

Although much altered over the years, Ardgowan still illustrates elements of its original design, based on the ideas of American landscape architect and designer Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing's two books, *Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), contained examples of the so-called "picturesque cottage" or *cottage ornée* style. Elements of this style were exhibited in the original design of Ardgowan, consisted of a single-storey, four-bay centre block with front verandah flanked by two-storey wings with hipped gables. The floor plan, the board and batten siding and the Gothic Revival detailing found in the chimneys and verandah fretwork were characteristic of Downing's designs. The bay windows on the front elevations of the wings were not original to the house, but appear to have been added at an early date. Over the years, additions were made to the rear of the house to provide additional service areas and bedrooms. Early in the twentieth century the east wing of the main house was moved to form part of a neighbouring residence.

Ardgowan in the 1880s. *National Archives of Canada*

In 1939, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) recommended the designation of the Fathers of Confederation, including William Henry Pope, as persons of national historic significance. In October 1966, the HSMBC recommended Ardgowan for designation as a national historic site and possible acquisition of the site as the symbolic home of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island, a recommendation that was accepted and realized.

1.4 IMPORTANCE IN THE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES SYSTEM

Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada is part of a broad-ranging program of commemoration including national historic sites and persons and events of national historic significance. There is a family of 912 national historic sites nation-wide, of which Parks Canada administers 153 and has contributed to many more through cost-sharing agreements. The stewardship of national historic sites is shared, as these places are variously owned by federal, provincial and municipal governments, by businesses and by private citizens.

Each national historic site has had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history or illustrates a nationally important aspect of the history of Canada. Collectively, national historic sites commemorate

[3] The separate provinces of present-day Ontario and Quebec were then known collectively as the province of Canada.

thousands of years of human history and a rich variety of themes, spanning political, economic, intellectual, cultural and social life. Ardgowan has links to other national historic sites, including Province House NHSC (Charlottetown), other homes of Fathers of Confederation that have been designated national historic sites (listed in Appendix 1), and persons of national historic significance, including William Henry Pope and the other Prince Edward Island Fathers of Confederation. Historic sites capture the spirit and house the physical remains of our shared past, serving as powerful symbols of our identity, an inheritance of all Canadians recognized under an act of Parliament.

1.5 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY BASIS FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

National historic sites in Canada must adhere to national legislation. Planning, management and operation of the sites are guided by Parks Canada policy. The legislative and policy context described below is common to all national historic sites administered by Parks Canada.

Goal of Management Planning

Management plans for national historic sites owned and/or administered by Parks Canada are mandated under law as a means to ensure the site's commemorative integrity, including the application of cultural resource management principles and practice, while guiding the provision of appropriate opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment of the site. This management plan presents the direction that will guide Parks Canada and its partners in the protection, presentation and management of Ardgowan NHSC and its associated resources in order to ensure the commemorative integrity of this national historic site. Public input is an integral part of the management planning process.

Historic Sites and Monuments Act

The *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* provides the minister responsible with the legislated mandate to designate "historic places," or to bring them into being. Such designations are usually made on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, a statutory advisory body composed of members representing all provinces and territories.

Canada National Parks Act

Ardgowan NHSC was gazetted as a national historic site under Part II of the *National Parks Act* (1967), now under section 42 of the *Canada National Parks Act* (2000). National Historic Sites General Regulations and National Historic Sites Wildlife and Domestic Animals Regulations apply at Ardgowan NHSC.

Parks Canada Agency Act

Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998), Parks Canada has a mandated responsibility for ensuring the commemorative integrity of national historic sites. In accordance with this Act, every national historic site administered by the Agency prepares a management plan to be tabled in Parliament once every five years, which is reviewed every five years.

The management plan is prepared with guidance from the *Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning* (2000), and in accordance with Parks Canada's current policy, described in *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* (1994). Three sets of policy pertain to the Ardgowan NHSC management plan: National Historic Sites Policy, Cultural Resource Management Policy and Federal Heritage Buildings Policy.

National Historic Sites Policy

Canada's system of national historic sites preserves and presents tangible and symbolic aspects of our nation's cultural heritage. The National Historic Sites Policy outlines the objectives of a national program of historical commemoration, provides guidelines for the evaluation of the program including the concept of commemorative integrity, and outlines the roles and responsibilities for the recognition, designation and commemoration of sites, persons and events of national significance. The Government of Canada's objectives for national historic sites are:

- to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration

- to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources
- to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

Cultural Resource Management Policy

To ensure that national historic sites and their associated resources and values are protected and presented appropriately, Parks Canada has developed a Cultural Resource Management Policy. Cultural resource management is built around values, practices and activities. The five guiding principles are value, public benefit, understanding, respect, and integrity. The practice of cultural resource management requires that cultural resources be identified and evaluated, and that their historic value be duly considered in all actions that might affect them. The Cultural Resource Management Policy also provides guidance on activities such as corporate direction, planning, research, conservation and presentation.

Cultural resource management is an integrated and holistic approach to the management of cultural resources. It applies to all activities that have an impact on cultural resources whether they relate to protection, maintenance, appreciation or use. The five principles of cultural resource management are not mutually exclusive; rather they work most effectively when considered together. Cultural resource management is integral to the successful management of national historic sites, and should be practised by Parks Canada staff and partners in all co-operative or shared-management activities.

Federal Heritage Buildings Policy

The federal government is committed to protecting the heritage character of federal buildings by promoting long-term use of these buildings in ways that preserve their heritage character. Accordingly, the Treasury Board Heritage Buildings Policy requires the evaluation of the heritage value of all federal buildings forty years or older. This policy is administered by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO), an interdepartmental advisory group within the Parks Canada Agency. A structure evaluated as a heritage building is either "classified" – the highest level of recognition – or "recognized." A building that is assessed but does not meet the criteria for recognition may be referred to simply as "not heritage." The evaluation of a building assists Parks Canada in determining how these cultural resources should be protected and used.

2.0 Commemorative Integrity

2.1 PARKS CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

Parks Canada's primary responsibility at Ardgowan NHSC is to ensure its commemorative integrity. Commemorative integrity refers to the condition or state of a national historic site when the site is healthy and whole. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat
- the reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public
- the site's heritage values (including those not related to designation as a national historic site) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

2.2 SUMMARY OF THE COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Statement of Commemorative Intent

A site's national historic significance is described in a Statement of Commemorative Intent. The rationale for the Statement of Commemorative Intent is contained in recommendations by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) to the minister responsible or is gleaned from minutes of Board meetings. As early as 1938 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada discussed the commemoration of personages of importance associated with Confederation; in 1939, the Board specifically recommended the commemoration of William Henry Pope. It was at their meeting in October 1966 that the HSMBC first discussed commemorating Ardgowan as a national historic site, as the minutes of the meeting indicate:

The Board recommended that this structure [Ardgowan, home of William Henry Pope, Charlottetown, P.E.I.] be declared of national historic importance and that the Minister explore ways and means to acquire it as the symbolic house of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island.

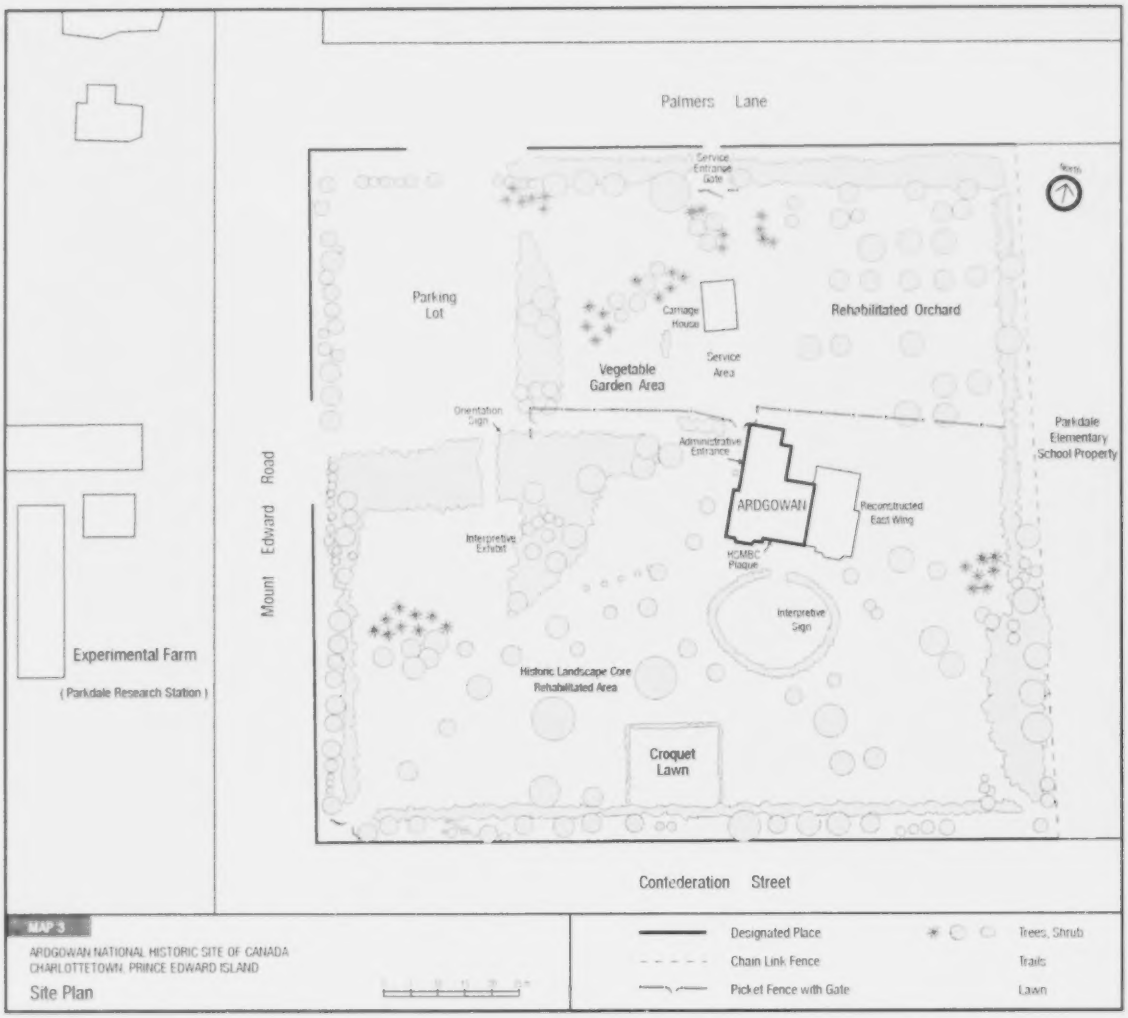
The Statement of Commemorative Intent for Ardgowan NHSC is as follows:

Ardgowan, the home of William Henry Pope, was designated a national historic site in 1966. The reason for national significance is: as the symbolic home of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island.

Ardgowan was evaluated as a "recognized" building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office in 1992.

The Commemorative Integrity Statement is an elaboration of what is meant by commemorative integrity for a particular national historic site and must be prepared for all national historic sites administered by Parks Canada. The Commemorative Integrity Statement for Ardgowan NHSC, approved in 1997, defines the site's designated place[4], identifies *in situ* cultural resources and historic objects of national significance and with other heritage values, and provides a clear description of where the historic value of the resources lies and those conditions necessary to avoid impairment of these values. As well, the Commemorative Integrity Statement identifies the reasons for the national historic designation of the site that should be communicated, as well

[4] Designated place, or historic place, refers to the place designated by the responsible minister on the recommendation of the HSMBC. Information on what constitutes the designated place for a particular national historic site is drawn from the minutes of the HSMBC. (From the Parks Canada *Guide to the Preparation of Commemorative Integrity Statements* (2002))



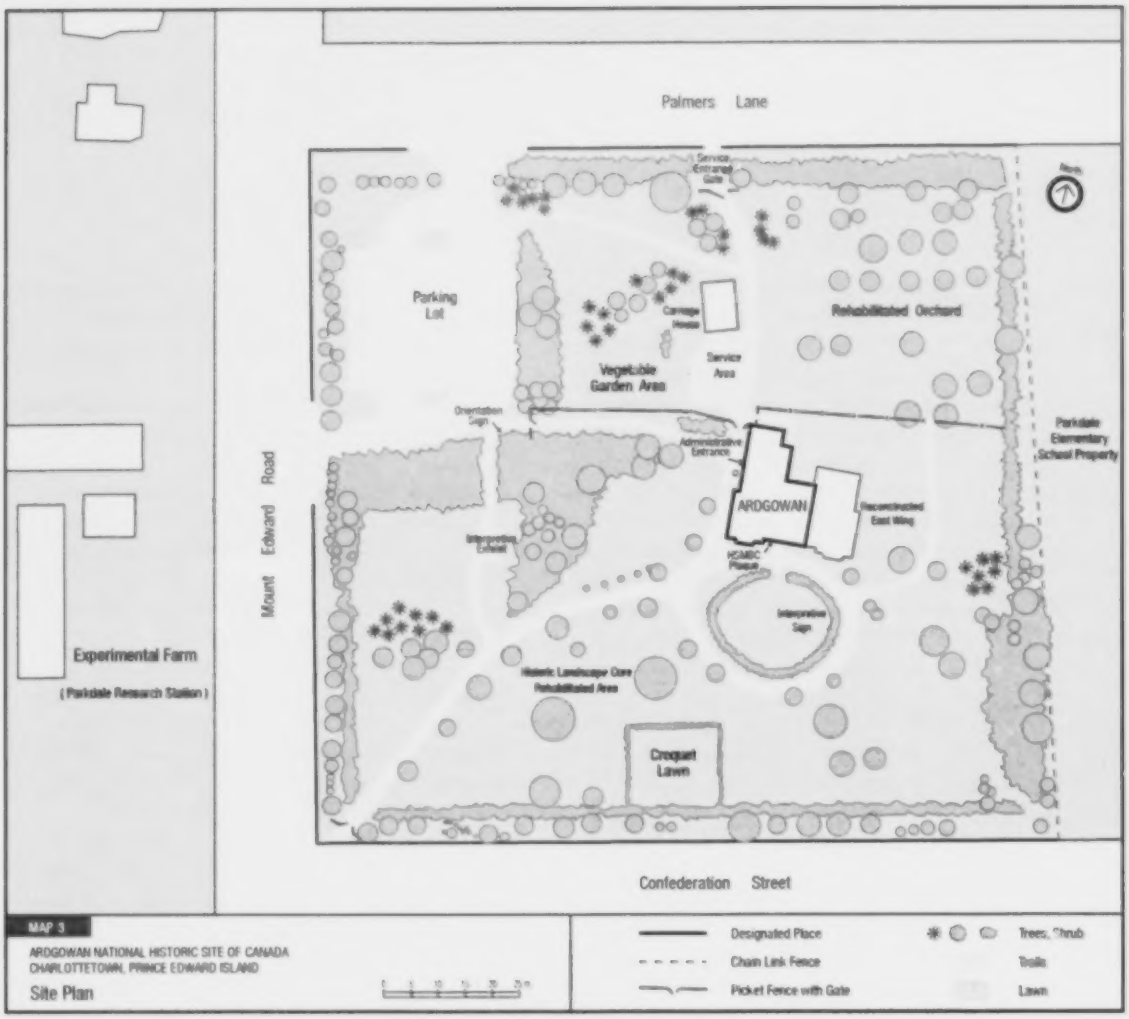
as messages not related to the reasons for designation, and indicators for their effective communication.

A. Designated Place

The designated place at Ardgowan NHSC consists of the house as it was in 1966, delineated by its footprint (i.e., without the east wing and the single bay of the central section added in 1994). Ardgowan is valued because it was the home of William Henry Pope, an Island Father of Confederation, and is the only surviving home of an Island Father of Confederation that was occupied by that individual at the time of the Charlottetown Conference. The open landscape surrounding Ardgowan is also valued for its contribution to understanding Ardgowan as the home of a prominent mid-19th-century politician. Ardgowan was once part of a substantial estate situated on the outskirts of Charlottetown. The rehabilitated gardens, composed of the remaining landscape and recreated landscape elements, enhance the Victorian character of the grounds. Maintenance of the landscape is integral to the commemorative integrity of Ardgowan NHSC.

B. Level I *In Situ* Resources

The Level I *in situ* resources at Ardgowan NHSC are synonymous with the designated



as messages not related to the reasons for designation, and indicators for their effective communication.

A. Designated Place

The designated place at Ardgowan NHSC consists of the house as it was in 1966, delineated by its footprint (i.e., without the east wing and the single bay of the central section added in 1994). Ardgowan is valued because it was the home of William Henry Pope, an Island Father of Confederation, and is the only surviving home of an Island Father of Confederation that was occupied by that individual at the time of the Charlottetown Conference. The open landscape surrounding Ardgowan is also valued for its contribution to understanding Ardgowan as the home of a prominent mid-19th-century politician. Ardgowan was once part of a substantial estate situated on the outskirts of Charlottetown. The rehabilitated gardens, composed of the remaining landscape and recreated landscape elements, enhance the Victorian character of the grounds. Maintenance of the landscape is integral to the commemorative integrity of Ardgowan NHSC.

B. Level I *In Situ* Resources

The Level I *in situ* resources at Ardgowan NHSC are synonymous with the designated

Fathers of Confederation during the Charlottetown Conference, Fanningbank. W.H. Pope is in the back row, second from right. *National Archives of Canada*

place: the building envelope of the house (excluding the 1994 addition) and its original elements. The house was extensively rehabilitated between 1980 and 1982 to commemorate the home of an Island Father of Confederation; the rebuilt interior provides office space for the Prince Edward Island Field Unit of Parks Canada. The two major rooms in the west wing and the centre room on the ground floor retain their original layout and much of their 19th-century character. Most of the framing, windows, doors and trim in these rooms is original and has been refurbished, as have been most of the door and window hardware, the marbleized slate mantelpieces and a chandelier in the west wing. The wall surfaces in these areas are plaster and the cornices and centrepieces were recreated based on the remains of the originals in place at that time. On the exterior, the trim on the verandah, front door and window was retained. The chimneys were reconstructed replicating their original appearance and the exterior cladding was replaced in keeping with the original.

Ardgowan is valued as the home of William Henry Pope, and as the site of a luncheon given by Pope for the delegates to the Charlottetown Conference in September 1864. The specific elements of the exterior and interior that retain 19th-century fabric are valued, as well as the room layout and overall appearance.

C. Level II Resources

Level II resources are those resources that are not associated with reasons for the national significance of the site but which have local or regional associations, historical significance and aesthetic or environmental qualities that are valued. At Ardgowan NHSC, Level II resources include the architecture of the house, the landscape and landscape features, the barn/carriage house and excavated archaeological resources.[5]

Built/In Situ Resources

The architecture of Ardgowan may be considered a Level II value. The original design of Ardgowan was based on the ideas of American landscape architect and designer Andrew Jackson Downing, as popularized in his 1842 book *Cottage Residences* and later in the 1850 publication of *The Architecture of Country Houses*. The plan, the board and batten siding, and the Gothic Revival detailing found in the chimneys, verandah fretwork, and bay windows were characteristic of Downing's designs. Although modified over time, the residence retains essential elements of its original appearance. It is recognized for its *cottage ornée* style.

Landscape and Landscape Features

Ardgowan NHSC consists of only part of the estate as it existed in William Henry Pope's time. Subsequent occupants made changes

[5] It should be noted that in the *State of the Parks 1997 Report* the barn/carriage house and landscape and landscape features were ascribed a Level I value. A reconsideration of the cultural resources during the development of the Commemorative Integrity Statement for the site led to a re-evaluation of these resources to Level II. Also, there are no historic objects stored on-site. See Appendix 2 for the inventory and evaluation of the known cultural resources associated with Ardgowan NHSC.

to the landscape at Ardgowan but historical illustrations suggest that the area between the house and present-day Confederation Street remains essentially unchanged from Pope's time. In this area are elements such as the curving driveway leading to the house from Mount Edward Road, the circular driveway and hedge in front of the house, and the open lawns. Some of the mature trees along the property line and scattered throughout the southern part of the site are likely survivors from Pope's occupancy although the large catalpas are known to have been planted by a subsequent owner. Rehabilitation of the grounds relied on reference material dating to after Pope's occupation of the property. The rehabilitated grounds may be considered representative of the "mid-Victorian era." A croquet lawn portrayed in a 19th-century painting of the site has been re-established.

The landscape is valued because it contains vestiges surviving from the era of William Henry Pope; as well, the landscape helps to illustrate the lifestyle of well-to-do Victorian families and reflects the evolution of the site.

Croquet hedge and rehabilitated grounds of Ardgowan. *Parks Canada, 2001*

Barn/Carriage House

A variety of service buildings once occupied the grounds of Ardgowan NHSC and may have included a cottage occupied by servants, a barn for animals and possibly a separate coach house. A site plan dated 1879 shows three rectangular buildings, all approximately the same size, located behind the main house. The only service building surviving on the site is a small barn/carriage house, approximately 9m long by 6m wide, situated behind and to the west of the house. This structure may be original to the period of occupation by William Henry Pope. It has been extensively repaired several times since Parks Canada acquired the site in 1967. This building has value because it is the only surviving service building on the site and may be original to the period of occupation by William Henry Pope. Historical documentation concerning the original location is contradictory. There is not enough information to definitely state the exact, original location of the barn during Pope's era.

Archaeological Resources

Limited archaeological excavation at the site occurred in 1980-81, primarily to locate any resources prior to construction activities and to obtain information through pollen analysis about vegetation historically on the site. The excavation unearthed approximately 800 fragments of glass, ceramic and metal, all representative of the late 19th century; these artifacts are maintained in Halifax in the archaeological collections of Parks Canada. Vegetation patterns in various locations on the site suggest that there may be other archaeological resources. These artifacts are valued because they reflect the evolution of the site and may provide information on the lifestyle of William Henry Pope and his family.

Plaques and Monuments

One HSMBC plaque commemorating Ardgowan NHSC is located on the front elevation of the house. The text for the plaque was prepared in 1977. This plaque reflects the federal government's efforts to recognize Canada's history.

D. Messages

Heritage presentation is an essential part of ensuring the commemorative integrity of a national historic site, to facilitate public understanding of the site's national significance. The reason for the national historic significance of Ardgowan NHSC is:

Ardgowan, the home of William Henry Pope, is symbolic as the house of a Father of Confederation in Prince Edward Island.

Ardgowan was the home of prominent Island politician William Henry Pope from 1854 until 1873. In September 1864, Pope represented Prince Edward Island at the Charlottetown Conference, the first meeting of colonial politicians that led, in 1867, to the Confederation of Canada. He later became one of the most vocal supporters of Confederation on Prince Edward Island. Ardgowan was the site of a luncheon for the delegates of the conference. Although other houses still exist that were occupied by Island Fathers of Confederation at various points in their lives, Ardgowan is the only surviving home of a Father of Confederation occupied by him at the time of the conference.

Other values of the site that should be communicated but that are not associated with Ardgowan's reason for national significance are:

- *Ardgowan is an example of the picturesque cottage or* cottage ornée *style popularized by the American writer, Andrew Jackson Downing.*
- *Ardgowan's grounds have been developed to represent a mid-Victorian garden/small suburban estate and, as a result, have become a popular site for public functions (e.g., summer garden parties, weddings).*
- *Ardgowan is thematically associated with Province House, situated approximately 2 km away in central Charlottetown.*
- *Ardgowan is part of Canada's family of national historic sites.*

Effective communication of reasons for the site's national historic significance and other values will be achieved when the overall heritage presentation experience (for both visitors and other audiences) conveys the reasons for national significance of the site, and when the stewards of Ardgowan NHSC understand the reasons for national historic significance of the site; the effectiveness of communication of messages and their understanding needs to be monitored.

2.3 COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT AS A FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING

This management plan aims to provide direction to managers of Ardgowan NHSC for the next ten to fifteen years, to ensure the site's commemorative integrity. The Commemorative Integrity Statement for Ardgowan NHSC serves as the benchmark of commemorative integrity, providing information about where value lies for the designated place and the cultural resources of the site and providing guidance on the appropriate messages to convey the national significance of the site. Accordingly, the Commemorative Integrity Statement must play a fundamental role in the selection and choice of appropriate management actions. The Commemorative Integrity Statement objectives for designated place and for cultural resources of national significance have framed the strategic decision making in the management plan for Ardgowan NHSC.

Particular management actions are not prescribed or proscribed by the Commemorative Integrity Statement. Management actions described in this management plan for the site have been selected to achieve the Commemorative Integrity Statement objectives and to address the cultural resource management principles of value, benefit, integrity, respect and understanding. Proposed activities seek to ensure that the cultural resources are not impaired or threatened and that messages about the site's national historic significance are conveyed. Activities that compromise the commemorative integrity of the site and that do not follow cultural resource management principles are not permitted.

3.0 Vision

Management direction for Ardgowan NHSC was developed with the guidance of a "vision" for the site. The vision is a description of the desired future for Ardgowan NHSC and captures the ideas and wishes of the site's managers, staff, neighbours, visitors and other stakeholders. Comments received from the Canadian public during the development of the management plan were consistent with this vision.

Ardgowan. *Parks Canada*

In future:

Canadians will consider Ardgowan NHSC an integral and important part of the Confederation story. The national significance of Ardgowan NHSC as the symbolic home of a Prince Edward Island Father of Confederation will be effectively communicated, while clear links to the broader story of Confederation will be maintained. Cultural resources of the site will continue to be protected, including the original elements of the house and the barn/carriage house.

Ardgowan NHSC will be an historical oasis, a beautiful, peaceful place that allows visitors to imagine aspects of life in mid-Victorian times. The landscape will continue to represent the mid-Victorian era, the era for which information was available to guide the rehabilitation of the grounds.

A level of services and heritage presentation that is appropriate to visitor needs will be offered at Ardgowan NHSC. Visitors to Ardgowan NHSC will understand why the site is considered of national historic significance and understand its other values. Visitors to the site will continue to have access to the rehabilitated grounds and to learn of the significance of Ardgowan NHSC in a variety of ways. Other audiences will have opportunities to learn about Ardgowan NHSC and the Confederation story through various off-site means. Ardgowan NHSC will be promoted to prospective visitors in ways that help develop appropriate expectations of their visit and that help them learn why the site is of national historic significance.

Ardgowan NHSC will continue to serve as and be known as the centre of administration and information services for Parks Canada operations in Prince Edward Island; the interior of the house will continue to accommodate offices for staff and other appropriate uses.

The properties surrounding Ardgowan NHSC should continue to be of a sympathetic scale and size so as not to detract from the ambiance of the site. Good communication and, where appropriate, cooperation with neighbours, property owners and other planning agencies will aim to ensure this.

Partnerships and collaboration will be developed or strengthened with groups and individuals to ensure the protection of the cultural resources of Ardgowan NHSC and the communication of reasons for the site's national historic significance and other heritage values.

4.0 Strategic Direction for Ensuring Commemorative Integrity and Site Management

4.1 PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Designated Place and Level I Cultural Resources

The designated place at Ardgowan NHSC is the house limited to its 1966 footprint (i.e., without the rebuilt east wing). This original part of the house and the architectural elements thought to be original to the era of William Henry Pope's occupancy are considered the Level I cultural resources of Ardgowan NHSC. The original elements have been documented.

The modern addition was built in 1994 to provide more office space for Parks Canada staff. This addition recreates the volume of the original house during Pope's time, replacing the east wing of the house that had been removed early in the 20th century. The designated place is affected by the presence of the modern addition, although for the most part the addition is maintained in a fashion similar to the designated place. The house accommodates the Prince Edward Island Field Unit's main administrative functions and the headquarters of Parks & People Association Inc., the cooperating association for Parks Canada in Prince Edward Island.

The designated place and Level I cultural resources remain in "good" condition as they were assessed in the Parks Canada *State of the Parks 1997 Report*. Staff presence in the house allows for ongoing monitoring of the resource, and ready identification of any maintenance needs.

The designated place of Ardgowan NHSC is influenced by land use and development in the surrounding area. Currently, the Ardgowan NHSC property is bordered to the north and south by residential development of sympathetic scale and character; nearby buildings are two to three storeys in height. The nearby open spaces of the Experimental Farm property help convey the sense of Ardgowan as it would have been as a former suburban estate to the City of Charlottetown. However, some of these lands are considered surplus to the needs of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada and may be sold. The future development of these surplus lands could have an impact on the designated place of Ardgowan NHSC.

Discussion:

The presence of Parks Canada staff at Ardgowan NHSC allows for quick identification of any problems with the house. However, longer-term recapitalization projects are not as easily addressed. A *Conservation and Maintenance Manual* [6] was prepared following the original rehabilitation of the house to address significant interventions to the building; however, the *Manual* does not direct short- and long-term maintenance and conservation of the house and other resources. The *Manual* has not been updated since the 1994 addition was built. There is no comprehensive and easily accessed inventory of the specific elements of Ardgowan NHSC that are of national significance. This poses a difficulty for those responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the house. While staff consult with conservation experts who have an intimate knowledge of the built heritage and the landscape, the knowledge of these experts needs to be documented for future generations of managers. To ensure timely and up-to-date guidance for any future interventions at Ardgowan NHSC, the *Conservation and Maintenance Manual* should be reviewed and updated to include a digital database (inventory) of original elements of

[6] *Conservation and Maintenance Manual for William H. Pope Residence 1850-79* (1982) B. Gallant.

the interior and exterior, and a summary of decisions and their rationale on interventions to date. A *Maintenance Management Plan* should be developed, outlining ways to monitor and track the condition of cultural resources and identify short- and long-term work needs.

Modifications to the buildings and grounds have been necessary and further modifications may be required to meet the demands of Ardgowan NHSC as a modern workplace (e.g., telecommunications, washrooms, accessibility, heating and cooling systems, fire suppression system). To date, efforts have been made to accommodate these modifications as well as possible with minimal impairment to the original fabric of the cultural resources. However, air conditioning units and hard-surfaced paths are examples of modifications that have compromised the rehabilitated grounds. Best efforts need to be made in designing and implementing future changes at the site to minimize impact on the house, the landscape and other cultural resources.

The character of the properties surrounding Ardgowan NHSC contributes to the integrity of the designated place. Future changes to neighbouring land use and development could have a detrimental effect on Ardgowan NHSC, particularly in maintaining the valued ambiance of the grounds. Parks Canada should continue to participate where possible in discussions pertaining to the redevelopment or change in land use of adjacent properties, to encourage development that is sympathetic and complementary to the heritage values of Ardgowan NHSC. The future of historic Ravenwood and the Royal Grove on the Experimental Farm property will be of particular importance to Ardgowan NHSC.

The designated place is considered not impaired or under threat when:

- Level I cultural resources are protected and managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy
- developments adjacent to the designated place are compatible with and sensitive to its heritage character in location, design, material and scale
- the rehabilitated and recreated gardens surrounding the house are maintained
- the values of the designated place are communicated.

Rear of house with modern additions, from orchard. *Parks Canada, 2003*

The *in situ* resources are not impaired or under threat when:

- Level I cultural resources are protected and managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy
- interventions at the house are compatible with and sensitive to its heritage character as an example of the country-villa design popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing
- all whose actions may affect the site, including staff and partners, recognize the potential impact of their actions and respect the cultural resources of the site
- modern Parks Canada administrative usage does not cause further impairment to historic fabric
- the original floor plan in the front section of the central block and west wing is maintained
- the values of the *in situ* resource are communicated.

Goal:

To ensure that the designated place and Level I cultural resources of Ardgowan NHSC are managed to the standards and practices accepted by Parks Canada, and to seek to ensure that development adjacent to the site is compatible and sensitive to its heritage character in location, design, materials and scale

Management Direction:

Parks Canada will:

- continue to maintain and protect the exterior of the house (including the building in its original footprint and the addition, and its architecture) and the original interior elements (including the original floor plan of the central block and west wing)
- review and update the *Conservation and Maintenance Manual*, and develop a *Maintenance Management Plan* for the cultural resources and the built heritage of Ardgowan NHSC. The *Manual* will identify original and replaced fabric including the new wing, and the *Plan* will provide guidance on required scheduled maintenance.
- ensure that future interventions at the site, including any improvements for workplace needs and visitor comfort, will be designed and implemented to avoid impairment of the cultural resources
- maintain an awareness of development of or change of use on adjacent properties and work with owners and appropriate authorities to try to ensure that the location, design, material and scale of the use and development are compatible with and sensitive to the heritage character of Ardgowan NHSC

B. Level II Resources: Landscape

Ardgowan's landscape was rehabilitated concurrent with the house (1980-82)[7] and is considered a Level II resource in "good" condition. The rehabilitated landscape recreates the appearance of a mid-Victorian garden/small suburban estate, based on material available for this period[8]. Some of the original landscape features still existed on the long-neglected property; foliage trees and flowering shrubs, many surviving from the 19th century, create a natural park-like atmosphere. In front of the house, a privet hedge and groups of moss and cabbage roses flank the circular drive, and a sandstone carriage step remains set beside the driveway at the front entrance of the house. Other features, including a croquet hedge and the kitchen garden, orchard and service area, were recreated with guidance from photographs, an 1888 painting of the site[9] and knowledge of 1850s garden trends in Charlottetown. The landscape features form the setting for the house.

In general, the grounds elements are healthy, although the large trees are showing indications of aging. In future, the city-owned elms at the edges of the property may succumb to Dutch elm disease, a disease present in Charlottetown. A landscape manual developed after the site rehabilitation, the *Grounds Maintenance Manual*, outlines routine requirements for care and maintenance of the grounds, and has guided site maintenance contracts, serving as a reference for the intended appearance of Ardgowan NHSC.[10]

Linden tree on the restored grounds. *Parks Canada, 2001*

[7] The landscape rehabilitation was designed and overseen by T. Gribbin, and described in an article co-written with J. Tulloch in The Island Magazine (1986, Spring-Summer, 13: 28-31).

[8] While material was not available for the precise period that W. H. Pope occupied Ardgowan, the rehabilitation attempted to recreate the ambiance of the era, for which material was available.

[9] This 1888 painting by Katie McLean is held in a private collection.

[10] *Grounds Maintenance Manual* (1982, updated 1987) T. Gribbin

Discussion:
Because the interior of Ardgowan is used for administrative functions and is not developed for visitors, the exterior of the house and the grounds serve as the key features of interest for a visitor at the site. It is on the grounds that visitors find heritage presentation and visitor services. The integrity of the rehabilitated landscape has been somewhat compromised in the interest of modern amenities to accommodate the function of the house as office space. While such amenities are necessary to ensure the comfort, health and safety of staff working in the house, future additions will be designed to have as little impact as possible on the rehabilitated landscape or other valued cultural resources.

The grounds are currently maintained to a high level, in keeping with a site of national historic significance. Modern maintenance practices are used at the site. Although period techniques would present the site in a more historic manner, current visitation levels do not merit these practices. Even using modern practices, maintenance of the rehabilitated grounds is expensive and currently contributes only in a limited way to heritage presentation. The grounds maintenance budget for Ardgowan NHSC has been adequate to maintain but not to rejuvenate the landscape through timely tree pruning and replacement of aging species. The *Grounds Maintenance Manual* does not address the long-term rejuvenation of the landscape. A *Landscape Management Plan* should be developed that updates the manual, addresses threats including the aging of trees on the site, considers an area beyond the site to encompass city-owned trees on the perimeter, and that integrates heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design. A multi-disciplinary team of professionals should participate in the development of this *Plan*. Implementation of the actions proposed for modification of the grounds through this *Plan* should be preceded by environmental impact assessment.

The landscape of Ardgowan NHSC is valued because:

- it contains vestiges surviving from the era of William Henry Pope (including a curving drive to Mount Edward Road, a circular driveway and hedge, open lawns and mature trees)
- it helps illustrate the lifestyle of well-to-do Victorian families
- it reflects the evolution of the site

The landscape's values will be ensured if the landscape is managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and the values are communicated.

Goal:
To ensure that the rehabilitated landscape as a whole is maintained so that it continues to serve as an appropriate setting for the house and as an historical oasis – a beautiful, peaceful place that allows visitors to imagine aspects of life in mid-Victorian times

Management Direction:
Parks Canada will:

- continue to protect and maintain the rehabilitated grounds as a setting for the house, using appropriate maintenance practices
- ensure that future interventions at the site, including any improvements for workplace needs and visitor comfort, will be designed and implemented to minimize impact on the cultural resources, particularly those vestiges dating from Pope's era, and to ensure that the landscape serves to illustrate the lifestyle of a well-to-do Victorian family.
- develop a *Landscape Management Plan* to address threats, encompassing the site in its context and integrating heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design

C. Level II Resources: Other Resources and Values
Level II values include the architecture of the house, the barn/carriage house, the landscape (treated separately in the previous section), archaeological resources (both unexcavated and in storage) and the HSMBC plaque commemorating Ardgowan NHSC. In 1992, Ardgowan House was designated as a "recognized" federal heritage building. The heritage character of Ardgowan House resides in its country-villa design. The trim

Barn/Carriage house. *Parks Canada, 2001*

on the verandah and on the front window and door is original, the chimneys have been reproduced according to the original design, and the exterior cladding has been replaced in keeping with the original design. Despite repairs and renovations, the building still retains its Gothic Revival architecture.

The barn/carriage house is one of a variety of service buildings that once occupied the grounds of Ardgowan. It may be original to the period of occupation by William Henry Pope and is the only surviving service building on the property. Historical documentation concerning the original location is contradictory. There is not enough information to state definitely the exact, original location of the barn during Pope's era. The barn/carriage house was evaluated by FHBRO, and found to be "not heritage." In the Parks Canada *State of the Parks 1997 Report*, the barn/carriage house was rated as being in "fair" condition. Since then, the barn/carriage house has undergone renovations to allow it to serve as a functional and safe space for storage of grounds maintenance equipment and can be considered in "good" condition. The renovations included bracing and reinforcing the structure, shingling and painting the exterior, hanging new doors and constructing interior walls and floors, while retaining the exterior historic character.

Archaeological excavations were undertaken at the site in 1980-81 to locate resources in advance of the rehabilitation of the house and grounds and to identify vegetation through pollen analysis that would assist with the landscape rehabilitation. Artifacts found during these excavations are maintained in a secure Parks Canada facility in Halifax; they have been evaluated as having a Level II value. The excavated artifacts reflect the evolution of the site and may provide further information on the lifestyle of William Henry Pope and his family. In 2003, a previously unrecorded well was exposed between the carriage house and the house. The well has been documented and secured; further investigation of the resource will be undertaken at a future time to determine its value. Vegetation patterns suggest that other archaeological resources may yet be found on the site. Further archaeological excavations are not envisioned at the site, although any future interventions on the grounds of Ardgowan NHSC must be preceded by archaeological and environmental impact assessments.

The plaque text was proposed by the HSMBC in 1977, and the plaque was prepared and affixed to the front elevation of the house at Ardgowan NHSC in 1982. The plaque is valued as evidence of the federal government commitment to commemorate the Fathers of Confederation from Prince Edward Island through the designation of a home of a Father of Confederation who occupied the property during the Charlottetown Conference.

Discussion:

The barn/carriage house will continue to serve as a storage facility at Ardgowan NHSC. The barn/carriage house is not impaired or under threat when it retains its size and configuration, it remains in its present location and it is managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy. To ensure its continued protection, the conservation and maintenance of the barn/carriage house should be addressed in the *Maintenance Management Plan*.

The architectural resources are not impaired or under threat when they are managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and when any proposed interventions are reviewed by FHBRO.

The archaeological resources are not impaired or under threat when they are managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and when any interventions on the grounds surrounding the house are preceded by archaeological evaluation.

The HSMBC plaque is not impaired or under threat when it is managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy. The plaque will be relocated from its current location to a position on the grounds or in another location where it will enhance public awareness and understanding of the text, and will contribute better to the presentation of the heritage values of Ardgowan. A location will be selected that will have minimal impact on the heritage values of the grounds, that will contribute to heritage presentation at the site and that will be protected yet accessible to visitors. An appropriate alternate location for the plaque will be considered as part of the development of the *Landscape Management Plan*.

Goal:

To protect and present the Level II cultural resources of Ardgowan NHSC through management to the standards and practices accepted by Parks Canada

Management Direction:

Parks Canada will:

- continue to maintain and protect the carriage house and the archaeological resources
- continue to maintain and protect the exterior of the house (including the building in its original footprint and the addition, and its architecture) and the original interior elements (including the original floor plan of the central block and west wing)
- review and update the *Conservation and Maintenance Manual*, and develop a *Maintenance Management Plan* for the cultural resources and the built heritage of Ardgowan NHSC
- develop a *Landscape Management Plan* to address threats, encompassing the site in its context and integrating heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design

4.2 ENGAGING CANADIANS

Parks Canada strives to engage all Canadians in its efforts to establish and care for national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas by raising awareness of the system of protected heritage areas, fostering understanding and enjoyment of heritage places in ways that respect their commemorative and ecological integrity, and strengthening Canadians' sense of ownership of these places as symbols of Canada and of our shared citizenship. Various media and communication mechanisms, both on- and off-site, are used to engage Canadians about Ardgowan NHSC.

Interpretive exhibit. *Parks Canada, 2001*

A. On-site Heritage Presentation

Heritage presentation at Ardgowan NHSC is offered on the grounds. The messages are communicated through media that include an outdoor interpretive exhibit, printed matter, the HSMBC plaque and the cultural resources of the site.

The main heritage presentation mechanism is an exhibit installed in 1982-83. Interpretive panels are mounted on a three-sided trellis, unobtrusively located on the rehabilitated grounds to the south of the

Carriage house and vegetable garden. *Parks Canada, 2001*

parking area. The exhibit was located to orient and inform visitors upon entry to the site, before wandering about the grounds; it was intended that visitors would start their visit at the exhibit. The exhibit describes William Henry Pope and his family, the architecture of Ardgowan and of Charlottetown, and the phenomenon of suburban estates. The panels are scratched and faded, the trellis support structure has deteriorated, and some of the information is out of date.

Other heritage presentation media are limited. A glossy, colour site brochure may oversell the site with images of the discontinued Victorian Garden Party event, although the brochure has limited availability off-site. The brochure and other printed matter are located in the foyer of the side entrance of the house, which is not open on evenings, weekends and holidays. As well, in response to interest expressed by visitors, some of the plants in the gardens have been labelled.

There is no personal programming on-site, although Parks Canada grounds maintenance and reception staff often field questions from visitors. Garden tours were once offered in English on the grounds as part of regular interpretive programming, while a simple self-guiding tour brochure in French was produced in the absence of French-language tours. A Victorian Garden Party was hosted by Parks Canada and Parks & People Association Inc. in September (the month of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference) from 1989 until 1998, and again in 2000 for the book launch of *Ardgowan – A Journal of House and Garden in Victorian Prince Edward Island*. These programs were discontinued because of a lack of resources and because they did not achieve intended goals.

Discussion:

The heritage presentation program for Ardgowan NHSC may not adequately inform visitors of the messages of national historic significance and of the other values of the site, or of Parks Canada's national messages, and is in need of renewal. Parks Canada commissioned a review of heritage presentation efforts at the national park and historic sites administered by the Agency on Prince Edward Island. The resulting study, *Heritage Presentation Plan, Parks Canada, PEI Field Unit* (2001), observed a number of shortcomings at Ardgowan NHSC. In general, the assessment concluded that the site is under-visited and underutilised for tours or special events. The *Heritage Presentation Plan* recommended eliminating the glossy brochure but otherwise maintaining the current level of heritage presentation media, exploring partnerships to offer tours or special events, possibly adding an outdoor washroom and interpreting Ardgowan NHSC at other locations.

Parks Canada is committed to continuing to inform visitors of the national significance of Ardgowan NHSC as the home of an Island Father of Confederation and as one of several other sites and attractions in the Charlottetown area with a role in the story of Confederation. Parks Canada will continue to invite visitors to explore the site.

Accordingly, the heritage presentation offer at the site needs to be improved to more effectively convey the key messages associated with Ardgowan NHSC and to convey Parks Canada's national messages to the visiting public through means that are appropriate to the level of visitation and that are accurate and engaging. A simpler brochure could be economically produced for wider circulation. A self-guiding tour could be prepared based on the previously developed French text, and made available in both English and French. Given available resources, the interpretive panels should be upgraded to include information about William Henry Pope's designation as a

person of national historic significance. There may be opportunities for partner agencies to assist with conveying the key messages of the site, through delivery of regular programming or special events. Parks & People Association Inc. is one agency well positioned to fill this role. The Victorian Garden Party is a special event that may be worth reviving if it is timed better. In future, it may be possible to consider more on-site, animated or authentic heritage presentation, such as demonstrating historic landscape management practices, but only in partnership with third parties. Use of the grounds for on-site heritage presentation media should be discussed in the *Landscape Management Plan*; any use of the grounds for this purpose should be preceded by environmental impact assessment.

In future, Parks Canada may consider the possibility of opening parts of the interior of the house at Ardgowan NHSC to the visiting public. The areas original to the house that have been rehabilitated to higher standards are the most appropriate candidates for such an expanded heritage presentation program, for use as indoor exhibit rooms only. Not enough of the interior has been restored to the original nor is there enough knowledge about the interior to merit consideration of a period restoration of the rooms. Opening portions of the interior of the house would significantly increase a visitor's range of experiences at Ardgowan NHSC, and satisfy those visitors with a curiosity about the interior of the house. However, during the life of this management plan, site managers will explore this idea only as a future possibility.

Target audiences for heritage presentation programming include:

Independent travellers
Individuals or small groups usually of adult travellers are attracted to Ardgowan NHSC during the summer months for its historic importance, its connection to the story of Confederation, or its historic ambiance, rehabilitated grounds and scenic gardens. These visitors typically have done research in preparation for their visit and deliberately seek out the site. They seek information about its history, about the individuals who occupied the house and grounds, and about specific elements of the gardens.

Local residents
Family groups or individuals enjoy the tranquil, beautiful grounds year-round as a local point of interest or scenic backdrop for photos. The grounds of Ardgowan are also popular with commercial photographers, and with local garden clubs and enthusiasts. Use and enjoyment of the site by these visitors promotes a sense of pride in the community; however, the historic significance of the site to these visitors is not as important as its accessibility and well-maintained grounds. Improved personal and non-personal programming and special events would raise the profile of the site for this audience, and likely improve their understanding and appreciation of the site for its national historic significance.

Other audiences
Other audiences include those who seek information about sites of cultural or heritage interest on Prince Edward Island as pre-trip planning information, or students or educators who seek information or programming associated with the story of Confederation and the 1864 Charlottetown Conference. Other audiences seek information that is clear, well-organized, aimed at their level of understanding. Often these groups make use of the Parks Canada Web site on the Internet and expect accessible, updated and timely information with links to other Web sites of interest.

Goal:
To ensure that key messages about the heritage values of Ardgowan NHSC and Parks Canada's national messages are communicated effectively to as many visitors on-site as possible and to provide opportunities for heritage presentation at the site that meet the expectations of visitors

Management Direction:
Parks Canada will:

- evaluate and revise or recapitalize as required the on-site non-personal media (e.g., exhibits and brochure) to ensure that

key messages and other heritage values associated with Ardgowan NHSC are communicated
- develop a bilingual self-guiding tour brochure for the site
- develop a *Landscape Management Plan* to address threats, encompassing the site in its context and integrating heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design
- approach other groups and agencies to explore the possibility of offering personal programming and special events
- explore the possibility of enhanced heritage presentation in the interior of the house (e.g., in rooms with original elements or reception area)

B. Off-site Heritage Presentation and Outreach

The non-visiting public has few opportunities to learn about Ardgowan NHSC. Little outreach is undertaken and little information is available to off-site audiences. The Parks Canada Web site serves as the main outreach tool. At present, the Web site provides only a basic level of information and links to other sites on the Confederation theme.

Other outreach efforts have been minimal. In 2000, Parks & People Association Inc. published *Ardgowan - A Journal of House and Garden in Victorian Prince Edward Island*. While this publication contains some historical information about the site and could be considered an outreach tool, it is primarily a recipe book intended as a fundraising tool. Founders' Hall, a Charlottetown Confederation-themed attraction, has an exhibit depicting Ardgowan and offers a brief message about the site's significance. Ardgowan is referred to in a video presentation shown at Province House NHSC, and as part of that site's interpretation.

Discussion:

Off-site heritage presentation to convey key messages about Ardgowan NHSC is underutilized. The Parks Canada Web site could better prepare visitors for the modest offer at the site and could more effectively situate Ardgowan in the Confederation story. Considering that Ardgowan NHSC is a site associated with the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme, there may be merit in working with other sites and attractions, particularly with staff at Province House NHSC, to develop more heritage presentation material that may be usable at various locations, tying the story and the sites together better. As well, efforts should be made to work with educators on the preparation of appropriate curriculum materials to improve school-aged children's understanding of the Confederation story, and should include references to William Henry Pope and to Ardgowan.

Goal:

To provide opportunities for all Canadians to learn about the national significance of Ardgowan NHSC and Parks Canada's national messages through off-site programs or products and outreach efforts

Management Direction:

Parks Canada will:
- develop and improve the Web site educational content, and update the Web site in a timely fashion
- communicate key messages about Ardgowan NHSC at other heritage sites administered by Parks Canada on Prince Edward Island; work with thematically related sites and attractions to communicate key messages
- work in collaboration with others to develop heritage presentation tools linking thematically related sites and attractions (e.g., map, brochure, passport, programs)
- work with educators on the preparation of appropriate curriculum materials to improve school-aged children's understanding of Ardgowan NHSC

C. External Relations

Visitation to Prince Edward Island has increased considerably following the construction of the Confederation Bridge. The year following the opening of the Confederation Bridge in 1997, visitation on the Island increased by 52 percent (or 1.2 million visitors). Since then, visitor statistics have decreased slightly.

The Province of Prince Edward Island and the City of Charlottetown have adopted the theme of "Birthplace of Confederation" to market and promote the Island and the capital. The national historic sites in Charlottetown, Province House NHSC and Ardgowan NHSC, can potentially benefit from this theme, as both sites have a direct and original link to the Charlottetown meetings of 1864 that led to Confederation.

Parks Canada's external relations efforts include use of print and electronic media, in French and English, to promote awareness of culture and heritage in the Province. These media include the *National Travel Trade Directory, Media Marketplace*, the provincial visitor guide, the weekly tourism publications for the Province and the City of Charlottetown and Parks Canada *Vacation Planners*. The main visitor information contact address on these materials is the mailing address for Ardgowan NHSC, the centre of business services and administration for the Prince Edward Island Field Unit, Parks Canada.

While Parks Canada has a limited budget to independently promote or advertise Canada's national park and national historic sites on Prince Edward Island, the Agency has developed beneficial partnerships with the tourism industry and tourism promotion organizations. The provincial government department Tourism PEI and the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island (TAIPEI) invite Parks Canada staff to review materials, to make editorial suggestions and to attend working group meetings regarding the national park and historic sites on the Island. This allows Parks Canada to provide input on how the park and sites are promoted by others. Parks Canada also works with the Capital Commission of Prince Edward Island and the City of Charlottetown on initiatives of common interest.

Discussion:

Ardgowan NHSC is a difficult national historic site to promote to visitors. The modest level of services and heritage presentation and the restriction of visitors to the exterior of the house result in a short and unremarkable visit.

Current promotional material may inflate visitors' expectations. The glossy site brochure and other promotional material make use of photos of the costumed animation/participants at the Victorian Garden Party, an event that is no longer offered. Because the mailing address on all material for national historic sites in Prince Edward Island is Ardgowan NHSC, visitors expect the site to be more impressive than it is or to offer more services than are available. However, it is difficult to know what visitors' expectations are or the mechanisms by which visitors learn about the site because visitor surveys have not been conducted.

The marketing and promotion of Ardgowan NHSC should be revised to avoid inflating visitors' expectations about the service and heritage presentation offer at the site, but also to make clearer the authentic and tangible link the site has to the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme in order to attract visitors with an interest in the site's history and the ambiance created by the rehabilitated grounds.

Goal:

To promote Ardgowan NHSC to prospective visitors in ways that help them develop appropriate expectations of their visit and learn about the national historic significance of the site and about other Parks Canada national messages

Management Direction:

Parks Canada will:

- encourage visitation at Ardgowan NHSC to an appropriate level, given the site's administrative function, that will not impair the commemorative integrity of the site. Parks Canada will periodically monitor visitation levels and assess visitor needs
- evaluate and revise promotional tools for Ardgowan NHSC, including traditional print and electronic media, especially the Web site, to ensure these tools communicate key messages, shape realistic expectations of the site and are targeted to visitors with an interest in the historic significance and the unique grounds of the site; promote and market the site to a level appropriate to the service offer

- work to ensure that promotional efforts of Parks Canada or of other agencies and organizations pertaining to the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme include Ardgowan NHSC

D. Collaboration and Partnerships

Parks Canada has a number of well-developed relationships and collaborative efforts in Prince Edward Island that benefit Ardgowan NHSC. There is a natural link between Ardgowan NHSC and Province House NHSC due to shared responsibilities of a number of staff in the Field Unit. Staff participate in others' marketing and promotional efforts for Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown, ensuring that all national historic sites and the national park are accurately presented in others' efforts. The administrative office of Parks & People Association Inc. is located at Ardgowan NHSC, allowing for regular contact between Association staff and Parks Canada staff. The efforts of Parks & People Association Inc. to raise awareness of and raise funds for Parks Canada have been of benefit to Ardgowan NHSC, including publication of a recipe book and in the past co-hosting the Victorian Garden Party.

Ardgowan NHSC is well known and well frequented for its beautiful gardens. The grounds are familiar to those in local gardening groups and are considered a Charlottetown attraction. Commercial photographers frequently use the site as the setting for weddings and family photos. Interest in the native plant species of the gardens of Ardgowan NHSC has been accommodated by labelling plants and sharing plant cuttings with the MacPhail Woodlot and Tree Nursery, a non-profit organization specializing in growing and selling native tree and shrub species.

Discussion:

Current partnerships and collaborative activities suit Ardgowan NHSC at this time, given the low level of visitation and low profile of the site. Any future efforts to raise the profile of or expand communication of the key messages of the site would require more collaborative efforts; promotion of the site should be appropriate to the service

Province House is of national historic significance for its role in the Confederation story. *J. Butterill, 1995*

offer. Personal programming, educational opportunities, links between the site and other heritage attractions and external relations would all benefit from better-developed partnerships. Parks & People Association Inc. would be a natural partner with which to offer personal programming or special events at the site. Parks Canada needs to remain aware of the efforts of other heritage and tourism organizations in Charlottetown, including the Capital Commission of Prince Edward Island, the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation and the City of Charlottetown. Parks Canada should build on and cross-link with the service and heritage presentation offers of these organizations where possible, particularly those linked to the Confederation theme, stressing the unique qualities of Ardgowan NHSC and Province House NHSC under this theme. Educators are a natural group to assist Parks Canada with enhancing understanding of Ardgowan NHSC in relation to the Confederation theme. Programs should be developed with educators to ensure that the role and significance of Ardgowan NHSC as well as of Province House NHSC are understood.

Parks Canada should strive to maintain good communication with neighbours, and to keep informed about plans for nearby development or change in land use, particularly on the lands that have been declared surplus to the Experimental Farm. Future development on adjacent properties could have a significant impact on Ardgowan NHSC in its functions both as a national historic site and as the administrative centre for Parks Canada on the Island. To this end, Parks Canada needs to make sure there is

continued dialogue with future owners, administrators and interested parties in the planning and development of the heritage and non-heritage portions of the former Experimental Farm lands. Future owners and administrators of the federally recognized heritage property, Ravenwood, and the Royal Grove should be approached to explore how to collaborate in the communication of thematic links and how to cooperatively promote the sites.

Goal:
To develop or strengthen opportunities for collaboration and partnership with groups and individuals to ensure the protection of the cultural resources of Ardgowan NHSC and the communication of the reasons for the site's national historic significance and other heritage values

Management Direction:
Parks Canada will:

- approach heritage and tourism organizations and other parties to cooperatively develop thematic promotional and heritage presentation materials and events
- work with educators on the preparation of appropriate curriculum materials to improve school-aged children's understanding of Ardgowan NHSC
- maintain an awareness of development plans for or change in land use on adjacent properties and work with owners and appropriate authorities and other parties to try to ensure that the location, design, material and scale of the developments are compatible with and sensitive to the heritage character of Ardgowan NHSC

4.3 VISITATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

Visitation at Ardgowan NHSC is low. Staff estimate that approximately 3000 people visit the site each year. Because of the low level of visitation, visitor statistics have not been recorded and visitors have not been surveyed as is done at other sites. The site does not receive tour buses, which constitute a significant proportion of the visitors at other sites. A large proportion of visitors to Ardgowan NHSC are local residents using the grounds as a setting for wedding or family photos, for weekend recreation and picnicking and as a destination for their out-of-town visitors. Fees are not charged of visitors or other users of the site.

Because of the low visitor numbers, visitor services at Ardgowan NHSC are minimal. Aside from heritage presentation services described in an earlier section, visitor services include orientation, parking and access to the grounds.

The parking lot located at the northwest corner of the property has entrances off Palmers Lane and Mount Edward Road. The lot was designed to accommodate one bus and about twenty-five cars including dedicated parking spaces for people with disabilities, although the lot markings have changed with time. The lot is often full due to administrative functions and employee use.

Because of the distance of Ardgowan NHSC from downtown Charlottetown, it is expected that many visitors arrive by vehicle rather than on foot; consequently, visitor orientation efforts begin at the parking lot. An orientation panel at the south end of the parking lot directs visitors to explore the grounds via a gravel path that leads to the outdoor exhibit. This echoes the original circulation pattern intended for the site. A separate paved path intended for administrative visitors leads from the parking lot to the side entrance of the house, which houses reception for the administrative function and printed matter about Ardgowan NHSC and other Parks Canada sites on Prince Edward Island. The side entrance is not open on evenings, weekends and holidays when the house is closed.

Visitors are encouraged to follow the paths and roam the grounds to view the outdoor interpretive exhibit, the recreated croquet lawn and the HSMBC plaque. The fine gravel surfaces of the wheelchair-accessible paths are sometimes soft; an all-terrain wheelchair is kept on site in case of need. Picnicking is permitted on the grounds, although a picnic table at the rear of the property is intended for staff use only. Benches for visitors are found throughout the property.

Orientation panel at parking lot. *Parks Canada, 2001*

The minimal services at Ardgowan NHSC do not include washrooms or drinking water for public use, shelter from inclement weather, refreshments, gift shop or special events. In urgent cases, visitors are allowed inside the house to use staff washrooms. However, when the house is closed in the evenings and on weekends and holidays, the washrooms are inaccessible. People wishing to hold special events on the grounds have been deterred by the lack of washrooms and the inability to secure the grounds solely for their function.

Discussion:

The visitor experience at Ardgowan NHSC should include effective communication of reasons for the national significance of the site and Parks Canada's national messages, in a setting that is an historical oasis, that is a beautiful and peaceful place of learning and enjoyment. Visitors to the site should come to enjoy the heritage aspects of the site and its rehabilitated gardens. Passive recreation opportunities should be encouraged.

Visitation at Ardgowan NHSC is low, and because of this it is difficult to justify any change to the level of service at the site. The visitor services offered at Ardgowan NHSC are minimal and may not meet the expected minimum requirement for visitor services at a national historic site, such as effective orientation, washrooms and drinking water. While improved visitor services would be difficult to justify without an increase in visitation, visitation cannot be increased and special events or other special personal programming cannot be encouraged without improvements to the basic services. Given the limited visitor surveys to date at Ardgowan NHSC, it is difficult to know what the visitor needs or expectations for services are.

The mechanisms for orienting visitors and preparing them for their experience are confusing and could be improved. The orientation panel near the parking lot does not provide clear direction to visitors, and visitors tend to follow the path to the side entrance of the house. Orientation material (site brochure) is available only at the side entrance of the house; however, visitors may not begin their visit there, or may find the house locked outside of business hours. Originally, the intent was to separate site visitors from administrative visitors by means of directional signage at the parking lot. Over time, the directional signs have been stolen or deteriorated and not replaced and printed matter moved inside of the house. The orientation of visitors to the site needs to be reconsidered, including directional signage and support material. Site visitors should be ensured an adequate level of parking and the lot markings should redefine dedicated parking spaces for people with disabilities. These issues should be addressed through the development of a *Landscape Management Plan*, and any modifications to the site should be preceded by assessment for possible environmental impacts.

Side entrance to house with signage. *Parks Canada, 2001*

Public washrooms are considered necessary if visitation at the site is to be encouraged beyond the current levels, and if the site is to serve as the venue for any future special events. The staff washrooms inside the house cannot easily be opened to the public for accessibility and security reasons. The possibility of providing washrooms for visitors at a suitable location on-site should be explored.

Goal:
To provide services that enhance the visitor experience and that are appropriate to the current and expected level of visitation at Ardgowan NHSC

Management Direction:
Parks Canada will:

- encourage visitation at Ardgowan NHSC to an appropriate level, given the administrative function of the site, that will not impair commemorative integrity. Parks Canada will periodically monitor visitation levels and assess visitor needs
- develop a *Landscape Management Plan* to address threats, encompassing the site in its context and integrating heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design
- continue to provide information at Ardgowan NHSC about Parks Canada and other national historic sites and the national park in Prince Edward Island
- explore the possibility of providing accessible washroom facilities that do not impair the buildings or rehabilitated landscape

Side entrance and path from parking lot. *Parks Canada, 2001*

4.4 OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Ardgowan NHSC serves as the centre of administration for the Prince Edward Island Field Unit, housing business services, external relations functions and the Superintendent's office. While Parks Canada staff have occupied various offices in different locations over time, Ardgowan NHSC has remained a constant and recognizable centre of administration for Parks Canada on the Island since the early 1980s. The interior of the house has been renovated to serve as modern office space. Currently there are thirteen Parks Canada staff working year-round on all levels of the house and Parks & People Association Inc. has an office and storage space on-site. A boardroom on the main level of the house is often used for meetings with staff from other locations and members of the public.

Because Ardgowan is an historic house, there are some difficulties associated with using it to accommodate a modern workplace. However, Ardgowan meets health and safety standards as a place of work.

The barn/carriage house at Ardgowan NHSC is used for storage of grounds maintenance equipment.

Discussion:
Ardgowan NHSC is well known as the centre of administration for the Prince Edward Island Field Unit. Parks Canada will continue to have an on-site presence at Ardgowan NHSC for the foreseeable future. There is no intention to open the interior of the house to the touring public during the life of this management plan. Any future provision for workplace needs at Ardgowan NHSC should not impair the commemorative integrity of the site.

Goal:
To ensure that Ardgowan NHSC continues to function as a healthy, safe workplace for staff and as the well-known centre of administration for the Prince Edward Island Field Unit, without compromising the heritage values of the site

Management Direction:
Parks Canada will:

- continue to position Ardgowan NHSC as the headquarters for administration and information services for Parks Canada on Prince Edward Island
- ensure that future interventions at the site, including any improvements for workplace needs and visitor comfort, will be designed to avoid impairment of the commemorative integrity of the site
- continue to make use of the carriage house for storage, without compromising commemorative integrity

5.0 Impact Evaluation and Environmental Assessment

This management plan for Ardgowan NHSC has been evaluated considering the impact of the proposed strategies and actions on the natural environment and the commemorative integrity of the site. (For the full text, see "Environmental Assessment of Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan– Final Report," 2003.) The environmental assessment was conducted according to direction in the *Parks Canada Management Directive 2.4.2–Impact Assessment* (1998), *Draft Guidelines for Assessing Parks Canada Management Plans* (1998), *Environmental Assessment Process for Policy and Programs* (Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, 1993), and *Procedures of the Department of Canadian Heritage for Complying with the CEAA* (Parks Canada, 1996). A preliminary environmental screening of proposed management guidelines was undertaken prior to public consultation. A final environmental assessment of the management guidelines was conducted in the final stage of drafting the management plan, to allow for incorporation of necessary changes into the final document.

The environmental assessment found that none of the proposed actions in this management plan will result in a negative impact on the natural environment, or detract from the commemorative integrity of Ardgowan NHSC. The section of the environmental assessment that assesses the potential "stress" or negative or positive impact caused by the proposed actions found that none of the proposed initiatives will impose a stress on the site, and that in fact initiatives will contribute to ensuring the commemorative integrity of Ardgowan NHSC.

While the actions proposed in this management plan do not necessitate any specific mitigative measures, the assessment urged that should any physical work proceed, a project-specific environmental assessment should be undertaken, as required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. This would apply to any changes to interpretive media on the grounds, relocation of the plaque, changes to trail and parking lot surfaces or other changes to the rehabilitated grounds, and possibly to the newly discovered well, following assessment of its significance and development of management direction pertaining to it.

The environmental assessment observed that better understanding of visitation and visitor use patterns on the site is important as baseline information to better track any impact on the heritage and natural resources of the site. Development of the *Landscape Management Plan* and the *Maintenance Management Plan* for the built heritage of the site are viewed as priorities for ensuring the commemorative integrity and the natural values of the site.

6.0 Implementation

The actions proposed in this management plan for Ardgowan NHSC are implemented through the Field Unit's Sustainable Business Plan. While the management plan is envisioned as a strategic guide with a life span of ten to fifteen years (reviewed every five years), the annual Sustainable Business Plan offers a picture of five years at a time. The Sustainable Business Plan identifies which actions of the management plan will be realized during the next five years, and their timing and cost. Any changes to the five-year forecast are captured by the annual review and update of the Sustainable Business Plan.

Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Prince Edward Island Field Unit Superintendent. The Field Unit Superintendent's three primary areas of accountability at this national historic site are:

1. Ensuring commemorative integrity
2. Improving service to clients
3. Making wise and efficient use of public funds.

Implementation of the actions proposed for Ardgowan NHSC in this management plan, once approved, depends on the availability of financial resources. The implementation of these actions will occur within the Field Unit's existing resource allocation. Cooperative initiatives with partners will be explored to identify, evaluate and pursue additional proposals under this plan.

Priority actions are identified and presented in the chart that follows according to Sustainable Business Plan service lines; however, these may be reconsidered in response to new circumstances or information, or changing national priorities and decisions. Emphasis has been placed on those activities expected to occur during the first three years following management plan approval, but other activities to be pursued during future years have been identified as well. No priority has been assigned to activities beyond broadly identifying timing. Further prioritizing will occur during preparation of the Field Unit Sustainable Business Plan.

The gardens of Ardgowan were rehabilitated to mid-Victorian period.
J. Buttenlf, 1995

Progress on the management plan implementation will be communicated through annual reporting on business plan performance and through the Parks Canada *State of the Protected Heritage Areas Report*, which is updated every few years. As well, progress will be reported to the public periodically; the public will be consulted about major changes. The management plan will be subject to periodic review, and can be amended to reflect changing circumstances.

Service Line	Priority Action	Priorities during the first 3-year period	Future-year priorities
Service Line 2: Heritage Protection	Review and update the *Conservation and Maintenance Manual*, and develop a *Maintenance Management Plan* for the cultural resources and the built heritage of Ardgowan NHSC	■	
	Develop a *Landscape Management Plan* to address threats, encompassing the site in its context and integrating heritage presentation media, improved visitor orientation and services and landscape design	■	
Service line 3: Heritage Presentation	Evaluate and revise or recapitalize as required the on-site non-personal media (e.g., exhibits and brochure)		■
	Develop a self-guiding tour brochure	■	
	Approach other groups and agencies to explore the possibility of offering personal programming and special events	■	
	Explore the possibility of enhanced heritage presentation in the interior of the house (e.g., rooms with original elements or reception area)		■
	Develop and improve the Web site educational content, and update the Web site in a timely fashion	■	
	Communicate key messages about Ardgowan NHSC at other heritage sites administered by Parks Canada on Prince Edward Island; work with others at other venues to communicate key messages	■	
	Work in collaboration with others to develop heritage presentation tools linking thematically related sites and attractions		■
	Work with educators on the preparation of appropriate curriculum materials to improve school-aged children's understanding of Ardgowan NHSC	■	
	Evaluate and revise promotional tools, including traditional print and electronic media	■	
	Work to ensure that promotional efforts by Parks Canada or by other agencies and organizations pertaining to the "Birthplace of Confederation" theme include Ardgowan NHSC		■
	Approach heritage and tourism organizations and other parties to cooperatively develop thematic promotional and heritage presentation materials and events		■
Service Line 4: Visitor Services	Explore the possibility of providing accessible washroom facilities that do not impair the buildings or rehabilitated landscape		■
	Periodically monitor visitation levels and assess visitor needs	■	

List of Participants

The development of this management plan for Ardgowan National Historic Site of Canada benefited from the participation of a number of individuals:

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APPENDIX 1

Homes of Fathers of Confederation that are National Historic Sites

New Brunswick	Chandler House/Rocklyn (Edward B. Chandler)	Dorchester
	Tilley House (Sir Samuel L. Tilley)	Gagetown
	Belmont House/R. Wilmot House (Robert Wilmot)	Lincoln
Nova Scotia	Jonathan McCully House (Jonathan McCully)	Halifax
	Henry House (William A. Henry)	Halifax
Ontario	Bellevue House (Sir John A. Macdonald)	Kingston
	Earnscliffe (Sir John A. Macdonald)	Ottawa
	George Brown House (George Brown)	Toronto
Prince Edward Island	Ardgowan (William H. Pope)	Charlottetown
Quebec	Chapais House (Jean C. Chapais)	Kamouraska
	Etienne-Paschal Taché House (Sir Etienne-Paschal Taché)	Montmagny
	Sir George-Étienne Cartier (Sir George-Étienne Cartier)	Montréal

APPENDIX 2

Inventory and Evaluation of Cultural Resources

***In situ* Resources**	
Ardgowan (1966 footprint including original elements)	Level I
Barn/Carriage House	Level II
Archaeological Resources	Level II
Landscape and Landscape Features	Level II
Plaques and Monuments	
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque	Level II